

Welcome to the Legislative Update for August 22, 2011

This *abbreviated version* of our regular e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

Between sessions of the Arizona State Legislature, it is our intent to offer the *Legislative Update* monthly.

Budget News

Latest from the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee** (JLBC)

Y2012 Budget Background report:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/budgetbackground2012.pdf>

The most *recent update* to the JLBC report, ***Tracking Arizona's Recovery*** is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery0711.pdf>

Although the Arizona State Legislature is currently not in session, interim committees are meeting and agendas are posted at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp?Type=AGENDAS>

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators at any time, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 or you may **contact the legislator from your area**.

You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* **or** by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

The House of Representatives is in August recess and the Senate in a state work period until September 6th.

Recent Legislation

H.R.2800

Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization of 2011

Introduced on August 5, 2011 by Representative Maxine Waters (CA-35), the bill has 14 cosponsors.

Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization of 2011:

Amends the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program through FY2018 and to revise program requirements to:

- (1) provide for competitive grants to nonprofit organizations to assist in locating missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;
- (2) expand such program to include locating other missing elderly individuals;
- (3) require the Attorney General to solicit grants for program applications in the Federal Register and on the Department of Justice (DOJ) website; and
- (4) establish a preference in awarding grants to national nonprofit organizations that have a direct link to patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their families (currently, grants may be awarded to only such organizations).

On 8/5/2011, H.R.2800 was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R.2651

Ensuring the Full Faith and Credit of the United States and Protecting America's Soldiers and Seniors Act

Introduced on 7/26/2011 by Representative David Schweikert (AZ-5) with 13 cosponsors.

The intent of the bill: To require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public, Social Security benefits, and military pay in the event that the debt limit is reached, and for other purposes.

Findings:

- (1) The Secretary of the Treasury is legally required to carry out the obligations set forth in Public Law 104-121.

(2) The debt obligations held by the Social Security trust fund may only be redeemed in order to pay Social Security benefits and necessary administrative expenses.

(3) So long as there is a positive balance of assets in the Social Security trust fund, an appropriate amount of obligations may be converted into an equal amount of publicly held debt in order to finance the full and timely payment of all Social Security obligations without exceeding the debt ceiling.

Prioritize obligations on the debt held by the public, social security benefits, and military pay.

In the event that the debt of the United States Government reaches the statutory limit as defined in section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, the following shall take equal priority over all other obligations incurred by the Government of the United States:

(1) The authority of the Department of the Treasury contained in section 3123 of title 31, United States Code, to pay with legal tender the principal and interest on debt held by the public.

(2) The authority of the Commissioner of Social Security to pay monthly old-age, survivors' and disability insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act.

(3) The payment of pay and allowances for members of the Armed Forces on active duty

On July 26, 2011, the bill was referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

The **Thomas (Library of Congress) website** *blogs include an explanation of the 2011 Debt Ceiling legislation process at:*
http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2011/08/the-curious-history-of-the-2011-debt-ceiling-legislation/?loclr=ll_t0040

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:
<http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include:

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

Other News:

From the **Administration on Aging**

Information about the **National Medicare Training Program** provided by **CMS:**

<http://www.cms.gov/NationalMedicareTrainingProgram/Downloads/2010ResourceSheet.pdf>

From **Medicare.gov**

Quality Care Finder tools

<http://www.medicare.gov/quality-care-finder/>

From Kaiser Health News

August 11th article on how the deficit panel Super Committee could influence cuts to Medicare and Medicaid:

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2011/August/03/debt-deal-FAQ.aspx>

Side by Side Comparison of Medicare Provisions in Deficit and Debt Reduction Proposals

<http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/8124.pdf>

From **Social Security**

Public Affairs Specialist, Arizona - Monthly Information Package

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/sep11mip.pdf>

From <http://www.usa.gov/>

Caregiver Resources

<http://healthcare411.ahrq.gov/column.aspx?id=839>

<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Health/caregivers.shtml>

Penn State study regarding **adult day care** - impact on caregiver stress:

<http://live.psu.edu/story/54165>

From the Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College

A Third of Unemployed Older Adults Without Health Insurance

"In addition to the difficulties caused by reduced income, roughly a third (**32%**) of older unemployed workers **no longer have any health insurance**," according to a 2011 report on the national Work Trends survey. "One-third (33%) are enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid, another 10% have insurance through a family member, and 11% have other arrangements. Only 10% have insurance from a current employer, and 4% from a prior employer."

Van Horn, C. E., Corre, N., & Heidkamp, M. (2011). Older workers, the great recession, and the impact of long-term unemployment. New Brunswick, NJ: John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University. Retrieved from [Heldrich Center Older Workers Brief.pdf](#)

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Keys to Success Unlocking critical issues involved in creating an Arizona Health Insurance Exchange provided by St. Luke's Health Initiatives

WHEN: September 16, 2011, Hyatt Regency Phoenix

To register and for more information:

<http://slhi.org/conferences/keys-to-success>

WHAT: 2011 Arizona Housing Forum; Housing in the New Economy

WHEN: September 21-23, 2011, Talking Stick Resort, SR 101 and Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azhousing.gov/ShowPage.aspx?ID=436&CID=7>

WHAT: 2 Fit 2 Fall, Scottsdale Senior Services, Scottsdale Fire and Scottsdale Healthcare address important issues of Fall Prevention in older adults.

WHEN: Tuesday, September 27th, 11 am to 1 pm, Via Linda Senior Center, 10440 E. Via Linda, Scottsdale, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2Fit2Fall.pdf>

WHAT: Hiring Our Heroes, Veterans Event

WHEN: September 29, 2011, 9:30 am to 4 pm, El Zaribah Shrine, 40th Street and Van Buren, Phoenix, AZ

Hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members and eligible spouses. Free hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

For more information: https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/hiring-our-heroes-phoenix-event-late-september_1.pdf

To register: <https://hoh.greatjob.net/sc/viewEvent.action?id=2101>

WHAT: NACOG Area Agency on Aging, 20th Annual Elder Issues Conference Creating Caring Communities: Opening Pathways to the Future

WHEN: September 29, 2011, High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/NACOG-AAA2011Conference.pdf>

WHAT: ArizonaSERVES Summit

WHEN: Rescheduled to November 4-5, 2011

Save the Date Flyer:

<https://www.azdes.gov/uploadedFiles/ArizonaServes/Summit-Save-the-Date.pdf>

For more information on Arizona Serves and the summit:

https://www.azdes.gov/Arizona_Serves.aspx?menu=332&id=6626

Did you know? A listing of Yavapai County free resources for caregivers is provided in:

<http://www.seniorconnection.us/Newsletter.html>

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: **gaca@az.gov**. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you!

Enjoy the rest of your summer,

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging